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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,212	06/24/2003	Kazuo Okada	OKADA, K. - 1	2254
25889	7590	06/08/2006		EXAMINER
				LAYNO, BENJAMIN
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3711	

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/602,212	OKADA, KAZUO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Benjamin H. Layno	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed 04/04/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-11, 13-19 and 21 under 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ozaki et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki et al.

The patent to Ozaki et al. discloses a gaming machine comprising variable display means or rotating reels 30a, 30b, 30c for variably displaying a plurality of patterns, and a front side display means 28a, 28b, 28c, which is arranged in front of the variable display means, Fig. 2. Stop buttons 44a, 44b, 44c stop the variable display of the variable display means, paragraph [0064]. A game media disbursement means, coin hopper 66 and dispenser 65 disperse game media when a stop mode of the variable display means stopped by the stop buttons conforms to a predetermined stop mode. The front display means is configured as a stack of a three of panel-shaped displays 26, 28, 27, paragraph [0042]. **The panel –shaped display 26 may be called**

the cover panel. Paragraph [0138] discloses another front display means, Fig.

28. This embodiment, paragraph [0138] recites that “the EL panels in the embodiments described above, a transmission type LCD device is applicable.

Thus, EL panel 28 in the embodiment in Fig. 2 may be LCD panel. In the Fig. 2 embodiment, one of the panel-shaped displays 27 comprises an opening 27a, 27b, 27c that allows the plurality of patterns of the variable display means to be seen there through. The panel -shaped display 27 also comprises an opaque member disposed around the opening such that at least a part of the images of the variable display device may be seen through the opening. The Examiner takes the position that the panel-shaped display 27 functions to provide a 3-dimensional display. In the embodiment in Fig. 28 the front display means has a reflecting plate 25 which also functions to provide a 3-dimensional display. Thus, it would have been obvious to modify the Fig. 2 embodiment by substituting for the panel-shaped display 27 a reflecting plate, in order to provide a more realistic 3-dimensional display.

4. Claims 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Takemoto et al.

The patent to Takemoto et al. teaches that it is known in slot machines that use panel-shaped displays 20, 22, to make the plates convex or concave 21, 22a, see Figs. 4 and 8. In view of such teaching, it would have been obvious to make Ozaki's reflecting plate convex or concave in order for the symbols reflected off the reflecting plate to move similarly to the symbol on the rotating reels 2, for aesthetic purposes.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed "second display panel and said third display panel are in the form of liquid crystal panels arranged in a stack.

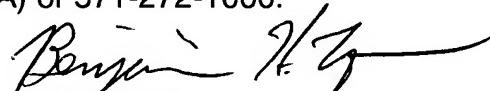
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin H. Layno whose telephone number is (571) 272-4424. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571)272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Benjamin H. Layno
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

bhl